

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A data transmission and reception method, comprising:

~~in which data transmitted from a transmitting end is received, receiving, on the basis of a reception contract, with by plural receivers which that have individual ID numbers and belong to the a same group, data transmitted from a transmitting end of a broadcast system, wherein said transmitting end assigns the a same group ID number to the plural receivers, and manages the reception contract on the basis of the individual ID numbers or the group ID number.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ data transmission and reception method as ~~described in of~~ Claim 1, further comprising updating wherein said reception contract is updated at regular time intervals.

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3. (Currently Amended) A—The data transmission and reception method ~~as described in of~~ Claim 1, wherein:

said data ~~includes~~ comprises video, audio, and data ~~which that~~ are transmitted by a digital broadcast data stream ~~in digital broadcasting~~; and

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said reception contract ~~is that a~~ comprises applying at least one predetermined accounting is performed for procedure to a predetermined portion of the data stream ~~which that~~ has been viewed for a predetermined period of time.

4. (Currently Amended) A—The data transmission and reception method ~~as described in of~~ Claim 3, wherein said portion of the data stream ~~is~~ comprises a service ~~(channel)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A—The data transmission and reception method ~~as described in of~~ Claim 1, wherein the content of the reception contract ~~includes~~ comprises services ~~which that~~ can be viewed at the ~~a~~ receiving end of the broadcast system and the ~~a~~ term of the contract, and they wherein said viewed

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services and said term of the contract are multiplexed in the data stream to be transmitted to the receiving end.

6. (Currently Amended) A—The data transmission and reception method as described in of Claim 4, further comprising:

~~a first individual ID number notification step of notifying first communicating to the transmitting end of the individual ID number which that is possessed by stored in a first receiver amongst among the plural receivers belonging to the same group;~~

~~a contract information notification step of notifying second communicating to the transmitting end of ID information for identifying a service with which the first receiver makes a reception contract;~~

~~an additional individual ID number notification step of notifying third communicating to the transmitting end of a third communication comprising the individual ID number of at least one additional receiver which that belongs to the same group as the first receiver, and information indicating that this said additional receiver and the first receiver belong to the a same group;~~

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~~a group ID number assignment step of first assigning, by the transmitting end, which has received the notification, third communication, the a same group ID number to the first receiver and the additional receiver; and~~

~~a contract information input step of inputting the ID information of the service with which the first receiver has made the reception contract, into the additional receiver.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A—~~The~~ data transmission and reception method as ~~described in of~~ Claim 6, wherein:

~~the first individual ID number notification step includes a step of notifying the said first communicating comprises communicating to the transmitting end of a telephone line number connected to the first receiver;~~

~~in the additional individual ID number notification step, the additional receiver belongs to the same group as the first receiver and is connected to the a same telephone line as that is connected to the first receiver; and~~

said method further ~~including~~ comprises:

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~~an ID number notification step in which fourth communicating by the respective receivers notify to the transmitting end of their individual ID numbers and the group ID number of said receivers, through the a telephone line connected to the receivers, at predetermined time intervals; and~~

~~a number collation step in which, collating at the transmitting end, the individual ID numbers of the plural receivers belonging to the same group and the group ID number, which are notified communicated through the telephone line at predetermined time intervals, are collated with the individual ID numbers, the group ID number, and the telephone line number number, which have already been registered at the transmitting end.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ data transmission and reception method as described in of Claim 6, wherein the contract information input step is said inputting the ID information comprises inputting the ID information of the service with which the first receiver has made the reception

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contract, the ID information being transmitted from the transmitting end.

9. (Currently Amended) A—The data transmission and reception method as ~~described in Claim 7 of Claim 7,~~ further ~~including a warning step of comprising~~ sending a warning from the transmitting end to the receiving end when the notified communicated numbers do not match the registered numbers ~~in the~~ collation step.

10. (Currently Amended) A—The data transmission and reception method as ~~described in of Claim 6,~~ wherein, ~~in the group ID number assignment step,~~ said first assigning comprises multiplexing the group ID number ~~is multiplexed~~ in the data stream together with video and audio to be transmitted to the receiver.

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11. (Currently Amended) A—The data transmission and reception method ~~as described in of~~ Claim 10, wherein the group ID number is stored in ~~CA (Conditional Access) EMM (Entitlement Management Message)~~ a conditional access section and an entitlement management message section of the data stream to be transmitted.

12. (Currently Amended) A—The data transmission and reception method ~~as described in of~~ Claim 6, wherein the group ID number is transmitted through a transmission path different from the data stream, to the receiver.

13. (Currently Amended) A—The data transmission and reception method ~~as described in of~~ Claim 3, wherein ~~the said~~ predetermined portion of the data stream ~~is~~ comprises an event ~~(program)~~.

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14. (Currently Amended) A—The data transmission and reception method ~~as described in of~~ Claim 13, comprising:

~~a first individual ID number notification step of notifying fifth communicating to the transmitting end of the individual ID number which that is possessed by stored in the first receiver amongst the plural receivers which that belong to the a same group;~~

~~an additional individual ID number notification step of notifying sixth communicating to the transmitting end of a sixth communication comprising the individual ID number of at least one additional receiver which that belongs to the same group as the first receiver, and information indicating that this said additional receiver and the first receiver belong to the a same group;~~

~~a group ID number assignment step of second assigning, by the transmitting end, which has received the notification, sixth communication, the same group ID number to the first receiver and the additional receiver; and~~

~~a result-of-viewing notification step in which, when an event (program) has been viewed with the plural receivers which~~

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~~belong to the same group and have the same group ID number,~~
~~seventh communicating to the transmitting end is notified of the~~
individual ID numbers of the plural receivers, the group ID
number thereof, and information specifying the event (program)
~~which a broadcast event that has been viewed, when the event has~~
~~been viewed via the plural receivers that belong to the same~~
~~group and have the same group ID number.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ data transmission and
reception method ~~as described in of~~ Claim 14, wherein the
information specifying the broadcast event (program) ~~includes~~
comprises a program ID number for identifying the event
(program).

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ data transmission and
reception method ~~as described in of~~ Claim 14, wherein the group
ID number assignment step ~~includes a step of said second~~
assigning comprises outputting information ~~which that~~ indicates
that either receiver-unit accounting or group-unit accounting is
to be applied to each broadcast event (program).

17. (Currently Amended) A receiver used—~~for~~ a data transmission and reception method in which a data stream transmitted from ~~the~~ a transmitting end of a broadcast system is received by plural receivers which—~~that~~ have different individual ID numbers and belong to ~~the~~ a same group, on the basis of a reception contract, and the transmitting end assigns ~~the~~ a same group ID number to the plural receivers and transmits information about the reception contract for the group ID number or for the individual ID number, and manages the contract including at least one accounting procedure, in units of groups ~~ex of~~ receivers, said receiver comprising:

storage means for storing the group ID number transmitted from the transmitting end;

demultiplexing means for extracting the information about the reception contract, from the transmitted data stream;

control means for analyzing the extracted information about the reception contract to recognize a receivable service, and instructing the demultiplexing means to extract key information

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for descrambling the receivable service, from the data stream, thereby obtaining the key information;—and

decoding means for descrambling the receivable service from the data stream, under control of the control means, on the basis of the information including the recognized receivable service and the extracted key information; and

ID number notification means for communicating to the transmitting end at least the individual ID number and the group ID number of the receiver, through a telephone line connected to the receiver, at predetermined time intervals.

18. (Currently Amended) A receiver used for a data transmission and reception method in which a data stream transmitted from ~~the~~ a transmitting end of a broadcast system is received by plural receivers ~~which~~ that have different individual ID numbers and belong to ~~the~~ a same group, on the basis of a reception contract, and the transmitting end assigns ~~the~~ a same group ID number to the plural receivers, and manages the reception contract including at least one accounting

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procedure, in units of groups or receivers, said receiver comprising:

storage means for storing the group ID number transmitted from the transmitting end;

demultiplexing means for extracting the a history of viewing which ~~includes~~ that comprises at least accounting information of an event (program) which a broadcast event that has been viewed and information specifying the event ~~(program)~~, from the transmitted data stream;

card means for storing the extracted history of viewing; and

card interface means for transmitting the stored history of viewing, and the individual ID number and group ID number ~~possessed by~~ stored in the receiver, to an external management center; and

ID number notification means for communicating to the transmitting end at least the individual ID number and the group ID number of the receiver, through a telephone line connected to the receiver, at predetermined time intervals.

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19. (Cancelled)
